Negro, Colonization of - 1932

Would Give U. S. African Colonies To Pay War Debts

MONTREAL, Canada—(ANP)—Stephen Leacock, humorist and political economist, has recently advanced as a seemingly serious suggestion that the debts owing the United States by European countries be cancelled in exchange for possession of the African colonies seized from Germany after the World War. Mr. Leacock's suggestion was coupled with the advice that the race question in this country could be settled by sending the Negro population here to the Congo and other colonies for purposes of settlement. Commenting on the whole statement of the Canadian economist as a joke, the Philadelphia Record said editorially:

"Six generations ago the Congo natives were driven on board the slave ships from the yellow beaches of West Africa—six generations of toil and tears and history ;and now they would come back, millions of workers, equipped with the white man's knowledge, ingrained with the white man's purpose, to show to their lost cousins in Africa what can be made of the old homestead..

"Beautiful. But there are many flies in the ointment. In the first place African colonies have not been a paying proposition. In the second our colored brethren in Harlem would hardly consider the Congo—no night clubs, no lotteries, no movies—a congenial place. In the third place the natives of the Congo are hardly likely to welcome a civilization that means mortgages, all-wool suits and payments on the radio.

Leacock is a good political economist. But a much better humorist."

BACK TO AFRICA BILL KILLED IN VIRGINIA

RICHMOND, Va.—After hearing the opposition of the Hon. T. C. Walker, representative of the Negro Organization Society, against a bill designed to send persons of African descent back to Africa, a committee of the House voted unanimously to kill the measure.

The sponsors of the bill, all white, were Ernest Sevior Cox, W. A. Plecker and John Powell, who sponsored the Virginia Racial Integrity bill two years. The measure was intended to assist colored people to migrate to Africa, and the farmers claim that they were actuated by a desire to keep the races "pure."

Mr. Walker, in denouncing the bill, characterized it as "a useless instrument by which the progress of the two races toward good will and harmonious adjustments would be set back a hundred years." He claimed that sexual relations between the races were on the decline and presented statistics showing that there were fewer children being born of mixed parentage.

BACK-TO-AFRICA PLAN DIES AMID MUCH OPPOSITION

Bill Called 'Fanciful,' Is Passed Over By The House Committee

Richmond Bureau
504 N. Third St.

RICHMOND.—After state-wide opposition to the bill to memorialize Congress to provide for the colonization of American Negroes in Africa, the measure was killed last Thursday, when the federal relations committee of the House of Delegates pigeon-holed indefinitely the Sisson resolution.

Among the opponents of the resolution were Dr. Gordon B. Hancock, noted sociologist of Virginia Union University, and J. Thomas Newsome, leading attorney of Newport News, who were unanimous in their antagonism to the "Back-to-Africa" movement.

At the meeting of the committee on federal relations and resolutions, Attorney Thomas C. Walker, of Gloucester County, and Roscoe C. Mitchell, newspaperman, told the committee members that the resolution would do great harm by arousing strained race feelings.

Calls Bill "Fanciful"

Attorney Newsome labeled the bill as "fanciful," pointing out its impracticability and lack of sound thinking. It was his opinion that any plan to transport the Negro race from this country to another was little short of absurdity.

He pointed out that Negroes are a fixture in America, made so by their hundreds of years of residence. He added that the greater number of white people were not in sympathy with the move, and that the cost of such an undertaking would be prohibitive.

"The 12,000,000 Negroes in America," he remarked, "would have so many children born before the exportation could be carried out to completion, that the exporters would have to begin all over again."

Dr. Hancock Writes

Dr. Hancock, in an open letter to the General Assembly, denied that Negroes were in favor of any scheme to ship them back to Africa, and emphasized that any such plan is utterly condemned by them.

A part of Dr. Hancock's letter read as follows:

"As a citizen of Virginia and of the United States, I take this occasion to protest the Negro colonization bill.

"The sponsors of the bill intimate that they are acting in response to persistent demands of the Negroes themselves. Their supporting evidence is not conclusive, for the basis of the petition is laid in the Garvey movement which long since has waned.

"NO ESCAPE FROM RESPONSIBILITY" — RICHMOND PAPER

Virginia Legislature Defeats Resolution Asking Negroes to Migrate to Africa.

RICHMOND, Va.—(CNS) The resolution recently introduced into the Virginia State Legislature, with the purpose of memorializing the United States Congress for the voluntary emigration of the American Negro to Liberia was voted down last week in the committee on Federal relations, which had the bill in its control. The bill had previously elicited adverse comment from hundreds of colored people in the State, protesting it.

The Richmond News Leader, leading white daily here, in commenting on the failure of the "Liberian Resolution" had the following remarks to make: "We are heartily glad that the house committee on federal relations yesterday voted unanimously not to report the Sisson resolution to petition congress for the voluntary emigration of American Negroes to Liberia. Such a resolution would simply have been a gesture that would have accomplished nothing except to add to the uneasiness that has been aroused among Virginia Negroes by repeated efforts to enact racial legislation. The only Negroes who favor Liberian emigration on a large scale are those associated with Marcus Garvey, who is looked upon with suspicion by many of his own race. If any Negroes desire to go to Liberia, it is open to them without the formality of legislative enactment. Some have gone and have returned; some have made the adventure and have been happy as the result. But emigration is, to all practical purposes, essentially a matter of individual action, and it cannot be made a mass-movement. The Negro is in America to stay. Whatever problems his presence may raise are to be solved by justice, by accommodation, by sympathy and by fair play. There is no substitute for these things, no escape from responsibility for them."

Back to Africa

The Virginia legislature last week voted down a resolution to petition Congress for the voluntary emigration of colored people to Liberia.

The resolution was sponsored by alleged Garvey supporters who have not learned much since President Arthur of Liberia shut the door in their faces and declined to permit them to enter the West African republic over ten years ago.

In as much as the word "voluntary" is used, the resolution is worthless much passed as killed. It wouldn't aid those who wished to go to Africa, and couldn't harm those who will remain at home.

However, if Garveyites believe a Virginia legislature's resolution has any value in Liberia, they need to wake up. What it takes to get over there is around $500 a person and a passport, neither of which can be obtained by resolving anything.

NEW BACK TO AFRICA MOVEMENT STIRS MICHIGAN RACE POPULACE

DETROIT, Mich.—A nationalist movement expressly designed for the nationalization and colonization of the Negro in his native Africa was launched here recently. That it is gaining some headway is evidenced by the fact that more than a hundred prominent people from various professions and businesses have given their signatures which signifies their willing to take active part in the movement, and, at the same time makes the charter members of the organization which bears the name of the Negro Nationalist Society of America.

While it has been pointed out that various and sundry movements have been started in recent years by Negroes in this and other countries for the purpose of taking the Negro back to Africa, the promoters of the National Society have taken great pains in making known the fact that this society is separate and distinct from any other movement and procedure. In that it is said to be the intention of the society to seek the aid of the United States' government in the project, for a period of ten years.

Liberia and the territories adjacent to it, is the promised land where the prime movers of this new society hope to establish the new republic.